

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Susan Heffernan <crain.ridge@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, January 12, 2018 3:51 AM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: Support of proposed changes VTP/Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Board of Forestry,

As we all watch in horror the impacts of wildfire and mudslides in our State please make the needed changes to the Vegetation Treatment Program so that more fuel treatments and restoration projects will be possible. My family and I have timberland (zoned TPZ in Butte County) and have dealt with the devastation from the Poe, the Highway 70, and the Butte Lightning Complex/Camp fires. I feel lucky our property in the Feather River/Concow watershed was spared this past year while our County had four devastating fires. I grew up learning about tree planting, thinning, timber harvests, tax bills, and stand improvements. Our land can no longer support itself with the huge costs of RPFs, THPs, LTOs that far outweighs any harvest receipts even if the timber market returned. The days of our ability to maintain and create new fuelbreaks while thinning and replanting are long gone. I will have to rely on my neighboring timberland owners, both private and USFS and Butte County Fire Safe Council possible projects to be able to do fuel reduction and treat our community's wildfire risk.

Wildfires will always be with us; the State of California needs to have this proposed change to VTPs to be more effective and efficient in reducing wildfire risk. Please help remove the handcuffs from those willing and able to take on this vital work.

Thank you,
Susie Heffernan
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